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SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

COAL MINES RESUME OPERATIONS

TA-T'UNG MINES IMPROVE OPERATION -- Wen-hui Pao, 8 Sep 49

The mining area around Ta-t'ung in Northern Shansi occupies parts of six hsien. According to Japanese surveys the mining area in 1943 covered 2,200 square kilometers and contained reserves estimated at 30 billion to 40 billion tons. The highest prewar annual production figure was 265,000 tons in 1936.

In 1940 the Japanese organized the Ta-t'ung Coal Mining Company which undertook extensive operations using modern methods. The production figure for 1941 was 2,517,219 tons. The highest daily production during the year was 13,718 tons. By July 1945 production had fallen to 4,630 tons a day.

During the period of EMT control after the war the installations were practically all destroyed or stolen.

Operations were resumed after the liberation early in 1949. Production in June 1949 was 9,440 tons. In June 1949, the authorities seriously undertook the rehabilitation of the mechanical installations. Machinery was reconditioned, buildings reconstructed, new tools manufactured, and some power sources restored; until at present the miners need no longer do all the drilling and digging by hand.

Under the enlightened administration of the CCP the miners have become the masters rather than the slaves of the mines as they were during the Japanese and EMT occupations. Their living conditions are steadily improving and they face the future with high hopes.

Not only are the coal reserves in the Ta-t'ung field ample, but the quality is very high. The one billion tons of coal in the upper or Jurassic layer are of noncaking or slightly caking quality, with about 3 percent ash content and 0.37 percent sulfur content, and a thermal value of 7,700 calories. This coal is, therefore, of excellent quality as stoker coal. Moreover it can be mixed with other coal in the area to produce high quality, low ash-content coke, most efficient in iron smelting.

- 1 -

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The coal in the lower layer, which is in a Permian stratum, is of good quality for coke with low sulfur, phosphorus, and ash content.

A combination of Ta-t'ung coal and Hsuan-hua iron will provide notable support to an industrialization program for North China. If the Ta-t'ung slack can at the same time be utilized for production of electricity, ample power will be available for North China's factories.

The North China government's Ministry of Industry has already begun development of a large-scale, unified reconstruction program.

The Ping-ming Electric Power Plant will be producing 1,050 kilowatts of power presumably daily for the mines by the end of the year.

PAO-FENG COAL MINE RESUMES OPERATION -- Wen-hui Pac, 9 Sep 49

Pei-p'ing, 7 September -- The Pao-feng Coal Mine, which had been occupied by the KMT since 1947, was returned on 1 July 1949 by the Nan-ching Military Control Commission at the request of the mine owners and after investigation as to the ownership.

The Pao-feng Coal Mine is in Lung-t'an, 30 miles east of Nan-ching. It extends 16 kung ch'ing (2,471 acres per kung ch'ing) and consists of four pits. Coal for the production of briquettes is being mined. The owner of the mines is Chiang Fen-lin (Ueda: 10082, 4713, 14655).

The Nan-ching Bureau of Reconstruction (Chien-she chu) loaned the mines \$990,000 in people's bank notes. At present 260 persons are employed. Pit No 4 has resumed production and has a capacity of 20 tons per day.

MEN-T'OU-KOU MINES SETTLE WAGE DISPUTE -- Ta Kung Pac, 4 Sep 49

Pei-p'ing, 2 September (WCKA) -- The wage dispute at the Hung-shun and Ssu-wei coal mines in Men-t'ou-kou was finally settled on 27 August 1949 when both sides, the miners and the private owner Hsien-chou, agreed to mediation by the Pei-p'ing municipal government. The wage dispute started after the liberation of Pei-p'ing when the owner opposed to the miners' demands for a 30 percent wage increase and insisted that their wages should be reduced by 25 percent because of his financial difficulties. When their demand for a wage increase was refused by the owner, the miners asked for mediation by the Pei-p'ing municipal government. On 17 August 1949 a joint meeting was held and an agreement was finally reached. By the terms of the agreement, the owner will pay a 30 percent wage increase retroactive to August 1949, but the total wages after the increase is to be reduced again by 10 percent after 1 August 1949.

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- 2 -

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